



**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
November 5, 2014**

**I. Call to order**

The November meeting of the Maryland Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 10:30AM in the Board Room of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

**II. Roll Call**

The following members were present:

Chairman Sudhir Trivedi  
Vice Chairman Mario VillaSanta  
William Cox Jr.  
Carol Petzold  
Gary Simpson  
Charles Deegan  
Cathy Riley  
Michael Moore  
Gregory Snook  
George Littrell, Jr.  
Elmer Horsey  
MDOT Staff Ian Beam  
MDOT Staff Tina Quinichette

Chairman Sudhir Trivedi called the meeting to order at 10:35AM. The October 1<sup>st</sup> minutes were approved.

**III. Briefing**

Ian Beam then introduced Dana Gigliotti from the Maryland Highway Safety Office of the MVA. She gave a power point presentation outlining their Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Mr. Simpson asked if the information that she was providing was available on the web. Ms. Gigliotti replied that it is and is also on the presentation handouts that were given at the beginning of the meeting.

One of the main focuses of the MHSO/MVA is to aggressively educate the largest targeted group of crash offenders. The trend states that these are men, between 21 and 34, who drive late at night and impaired with the main factor being alcohol.

Mr. Trivedi asked which county had the most incidents. Dana stated through reports generated that Montgomery County had the most.

Ms. Gigliotti also mentioned that the MHSO/MVA is on a campaign to change the verbiage when describing vehicle incidents. They wish to change the description from “accident” to “crash” or “collision”. The change reflects the fact that “crashes” and collisions” are preventable and therefore not considered an accident.

Mr. Trivedi inquired about the reports generated through the MHSO/MVA. Are they separated by different vehicles? Ms. Gigliotti assured him that they are.

Several commission members discussed the roll of cell phones as a distraction for drivers. Has it contributed to more incidents in the past few years? They also asked if it was lawful to confiscate the phones if it was used in a traffic incident. Ms. Gigliotti replied that incidents have increase due to cell phone use and also that if a cell phone was involved in a fatality then it could possibly be confiscated and used as evidence in a court case. She suggested contacting the law enforcement for the jurisdiction in question and asking them how they handle these situations. That is not something that falls under MHSO/MVA criteria.

Mr. Cox asked if MHSO/MVA works with bars and bar owners in the pursuit of impairment prevention. Sudhir added that because sports bars have so many TV’s in their establishments, could they send out PSA’s about safety and responsible driving to their public? Ms. Gigliotti replied that MHSO/MVA does work with the bars and bar owners and thinks that the PSA idea is a good one and she will bring that to the table when MHSO/MVA meets again.

Ms. Gigliotti also mentioned that they work closely with the State Highway Administration in promoting safety measures in regards to street signs, road markings and construction, traffic signals and area police departments.

Mr. Beam added that if the committee members would like more information regarding SHA’s safety programs, he would have Cedric Ward -Director of the Office of Traffic and Safety, to speak at the next meeting.

#### **IV. New Business**

Mr. Beam introduced two dedications for blue star signs. Two requests from the Federated Garden Clubs of America for Blue Star Memorials were handed out to the committee. One is for a memorial in a park and ride, and one for a rest stop. MR. Beam stated that these locations were preferable to on-road locations. Mr. Moore asked why veteran’s organizations cannot put up their own signs for support. Mr. Beam replied that it would possibly create competition between different vet organizations.

The Commission discussed protocol for the proper way to handle multiple requests for the same cause. A council motion to unanimously delay any decisions on dedications until more education about the Blue Star Memorials is received. [NOTE: TOPIC OF 12/3 MTC MEETING]

#### **V. Adjournment**

Hearing no other items of business, the Commission adjourned at 11:19AM until December 3, 2014 at MDOT HQ.